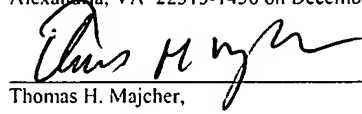


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 29, 2003.



Thomas H. Majcher,

Reg. No. 31,119

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : **NEW CONTINUATION APPLICATION**  
Con of Serial No. : 09/476,159, Filed: December 30, 1999  
Applicant : William J. Boyle et al.  
Filed : Herewith  
Prior Art Unit : 3763  
Prior Examiner : Lewis, M.  
Title : **EMBOLIC PROTECTION DEVICES**

Docket No.: : ACS 66147 (1738C) December 29, 2003  
Customer No. 24201 Los Angeles, California  
Express Mail No. : **EV 327061559 US**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment for the above identified continuation application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), filed simultaneously herewith. Entry of the following amendment prior to examination of the application is respectfully requested.